

Preliminary Assessment Completed for the Wolverine World Wide Former Tannery Site, Rockford, Michigan

Press Interest/Coverage: None

On June 16, 2012, the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ), under a cooperative agreement with EPA, completed a Preliminary Assessment (PA) for the Wolverine World Wide Former Tannery Site in Rockford, Michigan as part of the site assessment process. The PA concluded that there is contamination in on-site soils, groundwater, and sediment. It is likely that contaminated groundwater discharges to the Rogue River. The PA was performed in response to a Citizen's Petition to Region 5 EPA, dated June 21, 2011. The site has generated considerable interest among the very active local community interest groups and local and state politicians.

The Preliminary Assessment determined that the site scores above 28.50 in EPA's Hazardous Ranking System and merits further investigation. MDEQ has recommended that the site be referred to it for further investigation under "Other Cleanup Authority". EPA has concluded that such a referral is appropriate for the site. With the site under this status, MDEQ will work with the responsible party to achieve an acceptable investigation and remediation. MDEQ will also report to EPA at least twice a year on progress being made at the site. As per statutory requirements, letters responsive to the petition will be sent to the petitioners, along with copies of the PA. A copy of the PA will also be sent to State Senator Mark C. Jansen who expressed interest in the site.

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